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648 Among a number of other customs, was treaty making with other tribes. This was well described by Henry who accompanied the Mandans and Hidatsa when they went to make a treaty with the Cheyennes. Most of the people went on these treaty visits; the band marched in a procession of fixed order and a number of ceremonial objects were carried exposed throughout the march. The party was met with great ceremony by the new allies and its members were taken into their houses. Several days of ceremonial feasting occurred and finally the head chief of each party adopted a son from the other tribe. After this there was more feasting and several days of trade between the two bands, when both returned home.

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597 The adoption of sons occurred also among the different families. Maximilian describes the adoption of a "medicine son" to whom a sacred pipe was given. The man chose his adopted son through a dream. The new pipe was consecrated and gifts were showered upon the son's family by the adopted father and his relatives. A dance and feast was then held. This custom was prevalent over all the Missouri region.

838 There were a number of men who dressed and acted like women and were treated in every way as such. These men claimed to follow this life by an order from the spirits given to them in a dream.

567 Catlin says that the Mandans did not have slaves and there is no mention of them elsewhere. The Arikara, however, had a regular slavery system, and the Crows made slaves and sold them on the Missouri. The Mandans were very good at the sign language so Maximilian tells us. They were expert swimmers, and collected their whole supply of wood by swimming out and towing in the drift wood at the time of the spring breakups.

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511 In point of general culture the Mandans were superior to any of their immediate neighbors, surpassing even the other sedentary people, the Hidatsa and Arikara. Catlin says that they had advanced far in the arts of manufacture and had more comforts and luxuries than other tribes. When Verendrye saw them he, too, was struck by their superior skill. He said that the Mandans dressed leather and worked in feathers better

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X 172 283 pits. The cord mentioned consisted of three strands, each of six or seven prairie grass stems; these three strands were not braided, but twisted.

X 172 ●313 The remains of posts and sticks were often in such a condition that the wood could be identified. One of the largest posts found in the house site was of ash, but most of the large ones were clearly cut out of cottonwood. For the smaller posts, however, the diamond willow seems to have been most frequently used, and it is unquestionably the best wood. A few specimens of worked wood were found but none of great importance. There was a post, hewed square; a number of pieces of planks or slabs, fairly well cut; remnants of willow thatch from the roof; and a small piece of wood which had been whittled down with a blade of some sort.

The ashes showed the use of at least two sorts of fire wood, one giving a white ash and the other a red one. The red was probably diamond willow in most cases, as that is the only common wood in the region which leaves a reddish residue.

X 172 ANIMAL BONES:—Animal bones were numerous in all parts of the village site, not only in the form of implements, which have already been discussed, but also as refuse. Many of the bones were broken up into small fragments, but a number of whole ones were discovered and most of them have been identified. There were fish, bird and mammal bones belonging for the most part to the following species: Deer (*Cariacus virginianus*), Buffalo (*Bison americanus*), Elk (*Cervus canadensis*), Antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Coyote (*Canis latrans*), Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), owl (*Strigidae sp.*), and Bald Eagle (*Haliaëtus leucocephalus*), besides bones of smaller birds, some that seemed to be from a crane but could not be accurately identified; bones of mice and gophers; some few fish bones, and quite a number of unio and small snail shells. It is a significant fact that no remains whatever of either horse or dog skeletons were found, thus apparently showing that the horse had not yet got to the Mandans when they lived on the Heart, and also corroborating Henry's statement that the Mandans at first had no dogs.

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and treasures, as it contains every thing he values most, viz: two bulls' heads, which seem to be their great Manitou and protection. They are well daubed over with earth, and particular care is taken of them. There is laid on, or rather hung up, his arms, shield, ammunition, scalps of his enemies, and every thing he most values. 353

MORTAR AND PESTLE.

Next to this stage, stand the mortar and pestle, fixed firm in the ground, and the remainder of the hut from that to the door is vacant during the daytime, but occupied during the night by the horses. Then there still remains a large space in the center, around the fire, for the use of the family, which is generally swept clean once a day. 342 412 231

CORN STAGE.

Fronting the entrance of each porch stands a stage raised about eight feet from the ground, twenty feet in length, and ten feet in breadth, for the purpose of hanging up their corn to dry, in the fall; these stages have a tolerable good flooring, which in the fall is covered with beans to dry, and posts are erected upon them, on the tops of which are laid poles or rafters, to which the corn and sliced squashes are suspended in tresses to dry. When their harvest is over, they must have a pretty effect, but at this season of the year they are lumbered up with different kinds of drift-wood, of which they make their fires, and it gives a very ugly appearance to the villages. 343 251 313 372

DRIFT WOOD.

This wood they collect, in the spring, when the ice breaks up, and when great quantities of this wood floats down, the natives being expert swimmers, and so very active, that there is scarcely a large tree escapes them, until they have a sufficient stock for the year. I observed lying opposite to each village, an immense pile of this wood, and some trees of an amazing size. Commonly, when they collect the drift wood there come down numbers of drowned buffalo, that have perished in attempting to cross above, at a season when the ice was bad. These animals the natives are very careful to haul on shore, as they prefer the flesh in that state. [222] [268

LIGHT HAIRED CHILDREN.

An extraordinory sight that struck me among these people, was to see several children, of about ten years of age, whose hair was perfectly gray, and bore a strong resemblance to aged persons. Those I saw were all girls. These people in general have not that strong coarse hair, so peculiar to the natives of North America; it is of a much finer nature, rather inclining to 142

[See Category 16, p. 382-N.]